

Remarks

Following entry of this amendment, this application includes claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 23.

The Office Action indicates that claim 23 stands allowed and that claims 3 and 12 are objected to but are directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 3. Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, claims 2 and 4-12, should be deemed allowed. Claims 3, 13-22, 24, and 25 have been canceled.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 13-20, 24, and 25 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 1-25 of U.S. Application No. 09/415,466. The rejection is respectfully traversed, as it is moot in view of the present amendment.

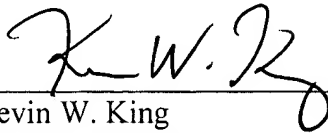
Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-22, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as disclosed by U.S. Patent No. 6,291,094 to Yoshimura. The rejection is respectfully traversed, as it is moot in view of the present amendment.

U.S.S.N. 09/415,781
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AMENDMENT &
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 23 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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